RUGELEY

Urban District Council.

YEAR 1913.

- Medical Officer's - Report.

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To the Rugeley Urban District Council.

RUGELEY, January, 1914.

GENTLEMEN,

In this my fourth Annual Report, I have felt it necessary to re-arrange the Statistical Tables. In the beginning when these Reports were first instituted the Medical Officer of Health had considerable latitude in his choice of tables. Now particularised tables have to be prepared, and as these contain the necessary statistical evidence required by the Central Authorities, many of the old tables have become useless, so I have omitted them.

The area of the District remains unchanged, but its size is 651 acres, not 600 acres as estimated in all former Reports, and is situated on the South side of the River Trent. One third of the area on the South side is on a subsoil of marl, the second third lying to the West and South-West is on sandstone rock ; the remainder North-South and centre is on loose gravel. The highest land is in the South, where it gradually rises to Cannock Chase an uncultivated area of considerable extent. The district is well drained and is supplied with water from an Artesian well on Cannock Chase.

The chief occupations of the District are as follows :—A Tannery employs about 60 hands, a Clothiers' Factory about 40 hands, a Sock Factory about 40 hands, a Paper-bag-making Workshop employs about 30 hands, and there is a small Chandlery and Iron Foundry. A considerable number of miners employed in Collieries outside the district live in the town.

The population at the middle of the year is estimated by the method recommended by the Registrar-General to be 4,518, and on this figure my estimates are based. There are 984 inhabited houses in the District, as compared with 982 last year, and there are 4 empty houses.

During the year 113 births were registered—75 males and 38 females—the birth-rate being 25.00 per 1,000. This number is 2 more than last year and .4 below the mean of the last five years, and it will be noticed that the number of male births is twice that of female births—a most unusual proportion. There were 3 male illegitimate births.

There were 62 deaths during the year—36 males and 26 females. This is 6 more than last year and 1.2 below the mean of the last 5 years. The death-rate is 13.72, and the corrected death-rate is 12.32.

Table I. This is Table No. 1 of the Local Government Board, and gives a summary of various statistics, births and deaths during the year and during the last five years.

There was one uncertified death, "Probably valvular disease of the heart."

There were 3 Coroner's Inquests during the year :—

G. P., aged 30, male, fractured rib penetrating lung.

Unknown man, aged about 40, found drowned.

S. B., aged 38, female, tubercular peritonitis.

Non-residents who died in the District were :—

J. B., 77 years, male, belonging to Lichfield Rural,				senile decay.
E. M. H., 5 years, female	,,	,,	,,	Tuberculosis of mesenteric glands.
G. C., 69 years, male	,,	,,	,,	Cancer of Bladder.

Residents who died outside district :—

B. D., 73 years, female, Cerebral Hæmorrhage. Died in Lichfield Workhouse.

D. M., 52 years, male, Internal injuries from accident. Died in Wolseley-road, Stafford Rural District.

Table 2. Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1913.

Scarlet Fever. Four cases were notified. They occurred in Talbot Street, Ravenhill Terrace, Sheep Fair, and Lion Street. For the three first cases no source of infection was found, but the last case was undoubtedly infected in Birmingham.

Enteric Fever. One case of an extremely mild type occurred in Sheep Fair ; the source of infection was very doubtful. There has not been another case notified in the District since 1901, and that was acquired in the South African War.

Whooping Cough. A slight epidemic of a rather severe type occurred in the early part of the year and caused 2 deaths.

There were 5 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified, and there were 3 deaths. It is too early yet to form any conclusions based on the notification of this disease.

Table 3. Causes and Ages at Death during the year 1913. This calls for no particular comment.

Table 4. Infant Mortality. This shows that there were 10 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a rate of 88.49 per 1,000 births. There were 4 deaths (3 under one year of age) from Enteritis, which I consider a most satisfactory figure considering that climatic conditions play a considerable part in the causation of this disease ; and the close, muggy weather of last Autumn might well have produced a bad outbreak.

Table 5. Deals with **Vaccination** and shows that there were 7 more conscientious objectors than there were last year, and that only 24 infants were vaccinated out of 113 births.

The last Table shows the sanitary work, &c., done by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Disinfection. This has been carried out, as far as possible, when necessary. But as there is no disinfecting apparatus it is impossible to disinfect bedding, etc., properly.

Isolation. In my former Reports I have endeavoured to impress on your Council the uselessness of the present Smallpox Hospital, and I am sorry to hear that there has been an endeavour to improve it by rough casting it. As a practical proposition it might as well be at the North Pole, and no nurse would stop there twelve hours.

Privies. These are slowly disappearing in favour of W.C.'s (see Report of Inspector of Nuisances).

Dwellings of the Working Classes. There have been many discussions on the quantity and quality of these during the past year. And they have been inspected by the County Authorities, whose report thereon we are now awaiting. The matter being in a sense sub judice I shall not now offer any comment.

Slaughter Houses. There is no improvement in the two slaughter houses mentioned in my former Report. And it seems that existing legislation offers no easy way of dealing with them.

Food and Drugs Acts. No action has been taken under this Act.

Milk Supply and Cowhouses. There are no Dairies properly so called in this town. There are 9 registered Milksellers who keep two or three cows, and sell the milk direct from the milking pail, and there are 9 milksellers who live outside the District. There are 3 Cowhouses all well outside the Town, but in the District. These ought to be better ventilated than they are at present.

Factories and Workshops. Most of these have been visited during the year. These are 6 Factories and 58 Workshops on my Register.

I have personally, or in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances, paid the following visits during the year.

On account of Infectious Disease	7
Bakehouses	44
Offensive Trade Premises	24
Common Lodging Houses	4
Ashpits and Privies	8
Slaughter Houses	28
Under Factory and Workshops Act ..	37
	152

The foregoing Report shows that the health of the District is good, and the deaths from preventible disease (including Zymotic diseases and Tuber-

culous diseases) amount to only 17.7 per cent. of the total deaths. And the matters which more immediately demand your attention are :—Provision of a proper Smallpox Hospital, a Disinfecting Apparatus, Housing of the Working Classes, the provision of an Isolation Hospital for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, &c., and I hope in the coming year that some headway may be made to accomplish these ends.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD FREER.

Report of Inspector of Nuisances.

GENTLEMEN.

1. There were 4 uninhabited houses at the end of the year, and, as stated in my last Report, there is room for more Working Class Dwellings in the Town. There has been considerable discussion in the Council on this matter and an Inspection from the Local Government Board is to enquire into the matter shortly.

2. Six new houses have been erected in 1913.

3. The condition of the Working Class Dwellings might be improved both from the landlords' point of view, by having necessary repairs and general painting and cleansing done, but more especially by the tenants themselves keeping the premises cleaner. Some are very bad in this latter respect.

I have inspected about 90 of these cottages and served notices under The Town Planning Act, and gradually I hope to get the necessary repairs carried out.

4. The Drainage and Sewerage throughout the Town has given no trouble whatever, and is working quite satisfactorily.

5. Nothing has been done re ventilation of sewers.

6. The Sewage Farm has worked very well during the year, and I am glad to say my Council decided not to let any of the beds for cropping so that we have been able to work these to the best advantage.

7. The water supply has given no trouble. The boreholes keeping up to the usual quantity.

About 15 houses are still unconnected with the mains. 15 houses have been laid on, so that before long no doubt the whole Town will be supplied.

8. Privies are being converted very slowly ; about 20 have been dealt with and connected to sewers.

9. The streets and footpaths are in good order. Tar spraying was carried out in main streets, which had not been repaired with Tarmac, and gradually the old water bound roads are being treated with tarred granite or slag.

10. 26 Canal Boats were inspected during the year and all were found in good condition, no complaints having to be made.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. E. ROGERS.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

Year	Population Estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1908	4500	127	127	28·2	60	13·3	2	2	13	102·1	60	13·3
1909	4500	118	118	25·5	72	16·0	2	3	10	86·9	73	16·2
1810	4500	98	98	21·7	61	13·5	1	7	12	122 4	67	14·8
1911	4500	116	116	25·6	67	14·8	8	8	13	128·9	67	14·8
1912	4550	111	112	24·6	56	12·4	5	5	6	84·0	56	12·4
1913	**4518**	**113**	113	**24·8**	**62**	**13·72**	**3**	**2**	**10**	**88·49**	61	13·5

Area of District in acres (land and inland water). **651**

Total population at all ages ... **4504**
Number of Inhabited Houses .. **975**
Average number of persons per House **4·6**

At Census 1911 (cf Census, Vol. V.)

TABLE 2.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	
Small-pox									
Cholera, Plague									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1			1					0
Erysipelas	3			1		1	1		0
Scarlet Fever	4		2	2					0
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	1				1				0
Relapsing Fever ... ... Continued Fever									
Puerperal Fever									
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...									
Poliomyelitis									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	5				2	2	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	3		1	1	1				
Totals	17		3	5	4	3	2		

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—Smallpox Hospital only.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD. TABLE 3.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year, 1913.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 & upwards	
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10
1. All Causes. Certified ...	61	10	2	1	3	1	7	15	22	8
Uncertified ...	1									
1 Enteric Fever										
2 Small Pox										
3 Measles										
4 Scarlet Fever										
5 Whooping Cough	2	2								
6 Diphtheria and Croup										
7 Influenza										
8 Erysipelas										
9 Phthisis ... ... (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3					1	1	1		
10 Tuberculous Meningitis... ...										
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2				1		1			2
12 Cancer, malignant disease ...	4						1		3	2
13 Rheumatic Fever										
14 Meningitis					1		1	4	3	
15 Organic Heart Disease	9									
16 Bronchitis	3		1					2		
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	1					1		
18 Other diseases of respiratory organs	1							1		
19 Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	4	3		1						
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1				1					1
21 Cirrhosis of Liver	1							1		
21a Alcoholism										
22 Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...	2						1	1		
23 Puerperal Fever										
24 Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition										
25 Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	2	2								
26 Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2						1		1	1
27 Suicide										
28 Other Defined Diseases... ...	20				1			5	14	2
29 Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2	1							1	

TABLE 4.—Infant Mortality.

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All causes { Certified ...	1				1	5	1	3		10
All causes { Uncertified ...										
Small-pox										
Chicken-pox										
Measles										
Scarlet Fever										
Whooping Cough ...						1	1			2
Diphtheria and Croup ...										
Erysipelas										
Tuberculous Meningitis ...										
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...										
Other Tuberculous Diseases										
Meningitis *(not Tuberculous)* ...										
Convulsions						1				1
Laryngitis										
Bronchitis										
Pneumonia (all forms) ...						1		1		2
Diarrhœa										
Enteritis						1		2		3
Gastritis										
Syphilis										
Rickets										
Suffocation, overlying ...										
Injury at Birth										
Atelectasis										
Congenital Malformations ...	1				1					1
Premature Birth						1				1
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus ...										
Totals					1					10

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 110, illegitimate 3

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 9, illegitimate infants 1

Staffordshire County Council. Table 5.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the Year 1913, in the Urban District of Rugeley.

		Number of Inspections and Observations made.	Number of Defects Found.	Abatement Notices. Informal by Inspector.	Abatement Notices. Formal by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice by Inspector.	Nuisances Abated after Notice by Authority.
Dwelling-houses and Schools	Foul Conditions ...						
	Structural Defects ...						
	Overcrowding ...						
	Unfit for Habitation ...	1	1				
	Lodging-houses ...						
	Dairies and Milkshops...						
	Cowsheds ...						
	Bakehouses ...						
	Slaughter-houses ...						
	Canal Boats ...						
	Ashpits and Privies ...	18	18	18		18	
	Deposit of Refuse and Manure						
	Water Closets ...	7	7	7		7	
House Drainage	Defective Traps ...	9	9	9		9	
	No Disconnection ...						
	Other Faults ...	11	10	10		10	
	Water Supply ...	3	3	3		3	
	Pigsties ...						
	Animals improperly kept	1	1	1		1	
	Offensive Trades ...						
	Smoke Nuisances ...						
	Other Nuisances ...	13	13	13		13	
Totals							

Unwholesome Food.	Number of Seizures	Nil
	Condemned by Magistrate	
	Prosecutions for exposing for sale	
	Convictions ditto ditto	
Food & Drugs Act.	Samples taken for Analysis	
	Number found adulterated, &c.	
	Proceedings taken	
	Number of Convictions	
	Samples of Water taken for Analysis ...	
	,, ,, condemned as unfit for use ...	

Precautions Against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed ...	0
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	9
Schools ditto ditto	
Prosecutions for not notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	Nil
Convictions ditto ditto	
Prosecutions for exposure of Infected Persons or things ...	
Convictions ditto ditto	

W. E. Rogers, Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE 6.

Vaccination for Ten Years ending 1913.

Years.	Births.	Vaccinated.	Children died under 4 months, removed from District or Vaccination postponed.	Remaining over for Vaccination at end of year.	Conscientious Objectors.	Insusceptible.
1904	113	76	11	26	1	0
1905	129	97	10	22	0	0
1906	102	77	5	18	0	0
1907	117	94	4	14	5	0
1908	127	92	7	11	17	0
1909	115	54	10	17	34	0
1910	98	31	8	15	44	0
1911	116	26	9	19	51	0
1912	111	23	7	16	65	0
1913	113	24	8	7	72	0
	1141	284	79		289	